

MEDIA RELEASE



**Attention: News Director
For Immediate Release
March 23, 2005**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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Western District of Kentucky**

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**LOUISVILLE MAN FOUND GUILTY OF DRUG TRAFFICKING AND FIREARMS
CHARGES**

David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, announced today that **ANTOINE BURKS**, age 25, of 5203 Bonita Lane, Louisville, Kentucky, in Jefferson County, was **found guilty** by a federal jury in United States District Court, Louisville, Kentucky, of trafficking in cocaine and possession of a firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime.

The jury's verdict of guilty was returned following a two day trial before John G. Heyburn II, Chief Judge, United States District Court.

On February 19, 2003, police arrested Burks after a search resulted in the seizure of nearly 24 grams of "crack" cocaine and \$2,248.00 in cash. Police searched another location the next day and recovered another 144 grams of "crack" cocaine and 3 firearms, including an SKS assault rifle, a 20 gauge shotgun and a .357 magnum revolver. The jury determined that Burks possessed the "crack" cocaine with the intent to distribute it and that he possessed a firearm to further the drug trafficking crime.

The maximum potential penalties are not less than 20 years and not more than life imprisonment, a \$10,500,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 10 years.

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This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Thomas W. Dyke, and it was investigated by the Louisville Metro Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Burks is scheduled to be sentenced before Chief Judge John G. Heyburn II on June 20, 2005, at 1:30 p.m., in Louisville, Kentucky.

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